

MEETING OF

THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, May 10, 2006, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Mark Davis (representing Michael T. Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture)
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Jack Markell, State Treasurer
Lyn Davenport, Secretary	Kevin Coyle (representing John Hughes, Secretary of DNREC)
Alden Hopkins	

Absent: Theodore P. Bobola, Jr., W. Allen Jones and Dennis Clay.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Danielle Klosowski, Cathy Mesick, Scott Blaier, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Esq., Mr. Andy Burger, Mr. Phil Tuthill.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. with prayer.

I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 654 farms in preservation districts totaling 144,015 acres, with a total of 441 farms under agricultural easements totaling 80,815 acres at a cost of \$103,901,727.

II. Expansion Eligibility/Final Approval

1. The Alfaro Expansion of the Whitby Farms LP District, ID#K-06-03-067H. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Alfaro Expansion of the Whitby Farms LP District, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**

Jack Markell asked about the number of Districts we are receiving into the program now. Michael McGrath stated that we are seeing about the same number of Districts and Expansions coming in as we had a few years ago. Discussion continued about farmland values after easement purchase.

2. The Mancuso Expansion of the Raughley Lands District, ID#K-06-03-185C. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Mancuso Expansion of the Raughley District, seconded by Jack Markell. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. The Walters Tract Expansion of the VanDyke Tract District, ID#N-06-03-129B. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Walters Tract Expansion of the VanDyke Tract District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

4. The Level End Farm Expansion of the McNatt-Outten District, ID#N-06-03-180B. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Level End Farm Expansion of the McNatt-Outten District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

5. The Workman Expansion of the Shawnee Wood Farm, Inc. District, ID#S-06-01-029C. **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Workman Expansion of the Shawnee Wood Farm, Inc., seconded by Jack Markell. Motion unanimously approved.**

III. Public Comments – No public comments were forthcoming.

IV. Minutes - Chairman Garey asked if there were additions or corrections to the April 12, 2006 minutes. Receiving no additions or corrections to the minutes, **Kevin Coyle moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Financial Highlights:

Cathy Mesick informed the Foundation Board that we had, as of April 30, 2006, \$3,067.80 in the Foundation's checking account. The Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account had a balance of \$286,506.40. Revenue for the month of April was \$327.57 in roll back taxes. Expenditures for the month of April totaled \$25,059.60. After discussion, **Lyn Davenport moved to accept the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion unanimously approved.**

Cathy Mesick presented a memorandum from the bookkeeper, Howard Mesick, requesting the movement of funds from accounts which will not need the money to accounts which will need additional funds. Michael McGrath and Michael Parkowski participated in the discussion which followed. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept the transfers of funds, seconded by Jack Markell. Motion unanimously approved.**

Michael McGrath presented the request concerning the Foundation participation in the American Farmland Trust annual meeting. The suggested sponsorship was \$25,000.00. Cathy Mesick mentioned that the response from the telephone poll conducted among the Trustees was favorable. Michael Parkowski stated that our legislation allows this. The funding would be from the interest on the Foundation savings account. After discussion, **Lyn Davenport moved to support the American Farmland Trust meeting with a sponsorship of \$25,000.00, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Executive Session

An Executive Session was necessary to discuss matters pertaining to confidential appraisal matters. **William Vanderwende moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.** The Executive Session started at 9:09 a.m.

At 10:02 a.m. the Executive Session ended.

VII. Announcement of Properties which will have Development Rights Purchased in PDR 11

The list of Purchase of Development Rights was presented to the Foundation by Michael McGrath. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to approve the list of those properties that will have development rights purchase in PDR 11, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion approved. Mr. William Vanderwende abstained from voting because of a conflict of interest.** (See attached list.)

VIII. Other Business

1. Purchase of Development Rights Selection Process

Michael McGrath informed the Chairman that the letter concerning the confidentiality of the discount on Development Rights and the non-disclosure of the selections until the Board approves the properties was mailed to Sussex County Council and the Kent County Levy Court.

2. Funding of Legal and Survey and Option/Negotiation Fees

Michael McGrath requested a change in the funding for the closing costs for the Purchase of Development Rights properties in Purchase of Development Rights Round 10. We will be funding these closing costs from our 8023 account instead of our 8021. This would allow more funds for the payments to landowners. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to approve the change in funding for closing costs from 8021 to 8023 accounts, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on June 14, 2006 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Davenport
Secretary